

NSC BRIEFING

24 May 1980

LAOS

- I. Pathet Lao leader Prince Souphanouvong and other jailed NLMS leaders (13 in all) escaped from prison last night in Vientiane.
 - A. Full details not yet available. One guard, apparently bribed, helped engineer the escape.
- II. Escape of these leaders probably signals resumption of strong anti-government activity by Communists and pro-Communist sympathizers.
 - A. Without the presence of Souphanouvong and his companions in the ranks of the Pathet Lao, Hanoi and Peiping probably believed it would be difficult to intensify any anti-government campaign.

17
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